THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The amount of financial assistance provided to the people of North East Region belonging to SC, ST and Minority community during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is annexed. *(See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 16) Funds are released by the Ministry Scheme-wise/State-wise. No funds are released Community-wise.

(b) and (c) In none of the seven North Eastern States, the Minority Development Finance Corporation is working under State SC/ST development Finance Corporation. All the State Governments have been requested to incorporate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and to nominate the same as Channelising Agency of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. However, it is the prerogative of State Governments to consider viability of separate Corporation for Minorities depending upon the population of Minorities, resources of the State etc. As on date, a separate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation is functioning in Tripura and similar agency is under incorporation in Assam.

Funds to strengthen research and development in CSIR

*75. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme demanding more funds to strengthen R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientific industrial research patented by CSIR during the last three years? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (PROF. YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir, CSIR has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D during the IX Five Year Plan period. It has submitted the proposal for the consideration of the Planning Commission. The IX Plan interalia seeks budgetary support of Rs. 250 crore for modernisation of its facilities and equipment and Rs. 360 crore for establishing new facilities with CSIR supplementing the budgetary grants through generation of extra budgetary resources. The Plan allocation for 1997-98 for Modernisation is Rs. 50 crores. In addition CSIR would be given matching grant equal to the incremental commercial rupee generated by it in 1996-97.

(b) The Planning Commission has yet to decide on the IX Five Year Plan allocations including those of CSIR.

(c) The number of patents filed by CSIR during the last three years is as under:—

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Indian patents filing	241	260	209
Foreig patents filing	29	58	70

Foodgrain worth Rs. 2500 crore missing from FCI Godowns

*76. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that foodgrain worth over Rs. 2500 crore have been found missing from the godowns of Food Corporation of India;